

Washington Fuel Reduction Project

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Standards

For

Defensible Space

January 18, 2008

Defensible Space Standards



Evidence from past fires shows that a home has a fifty per cent greater chance of surviving a wildfire if the home has defensible space.

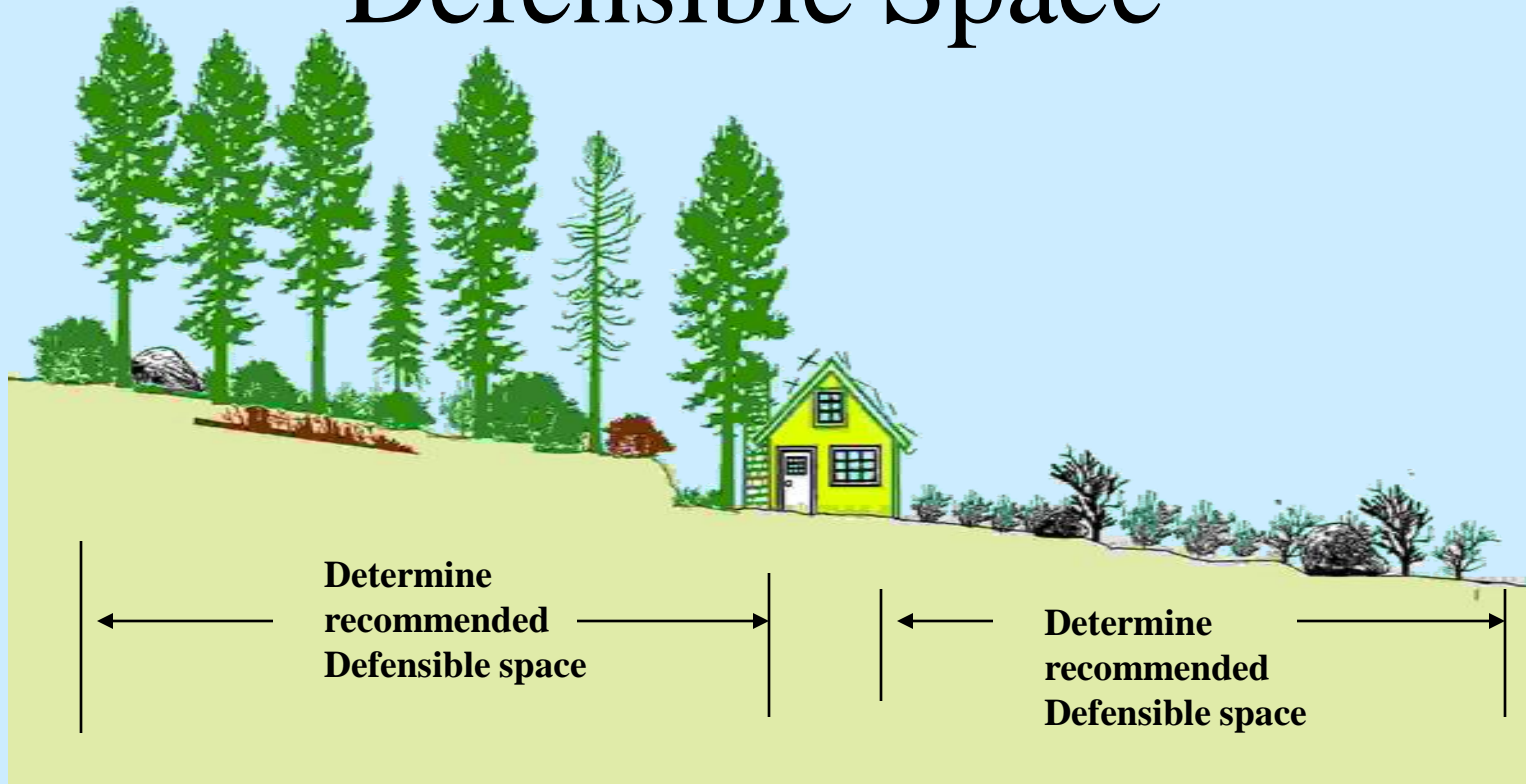
Fuel Reduction Standards Involve Three Treatments.

- Removal of excess trees and shrubs to provide defensible space.
- Reduction of the continuity of ladder fuels or brush coverage.
- Replacement with fire resistant plants.

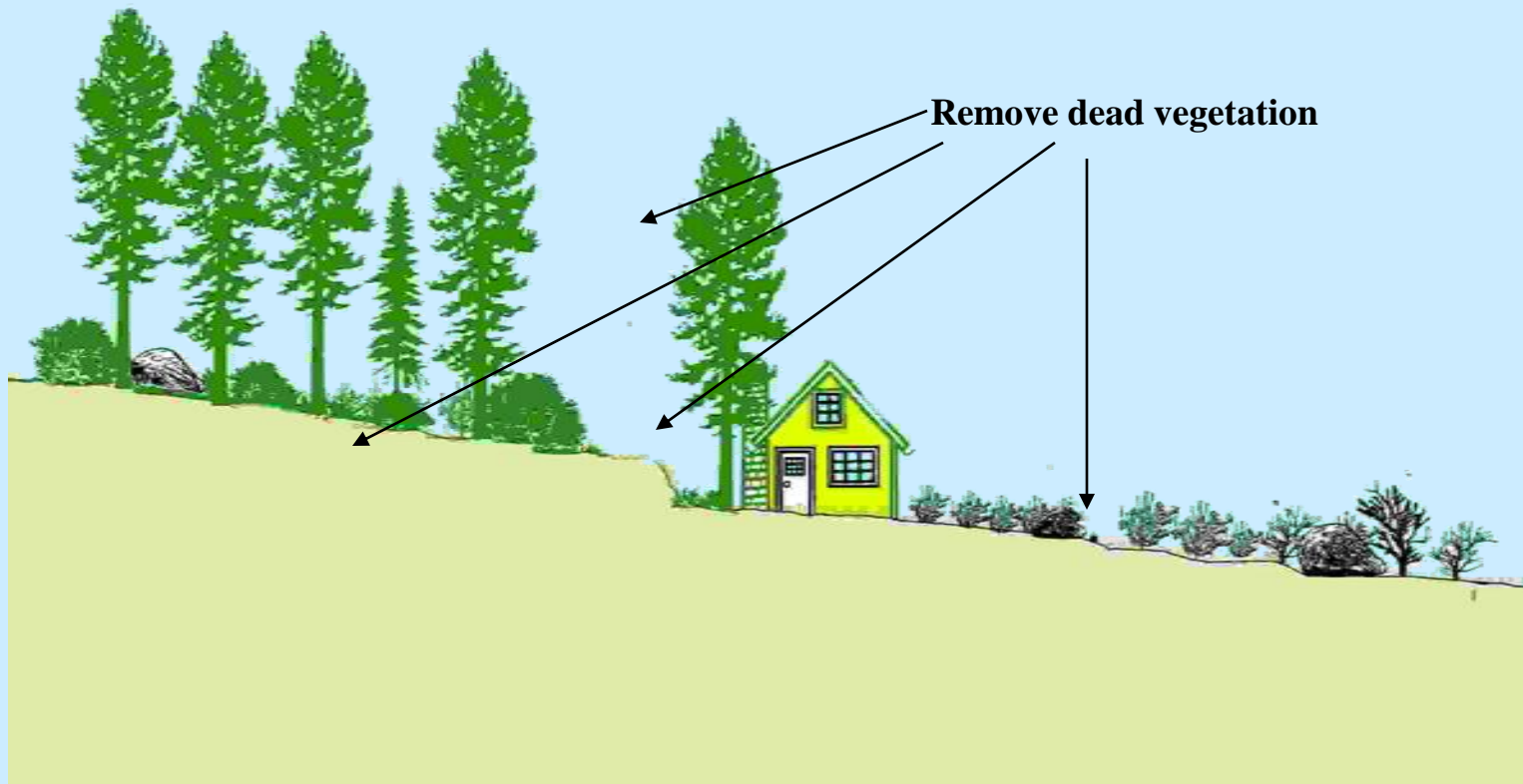
Defensible Space is a Six Step Process:

1. Determine the defensible space around the home
2. Remove dead vegetation.
3. Break up continuous vegetation.
4. Remove ladder fuels.
5. Make the zone within thirty feet of the home “lean, clean and green”.
6. Create and implement an annual maintenance plan.

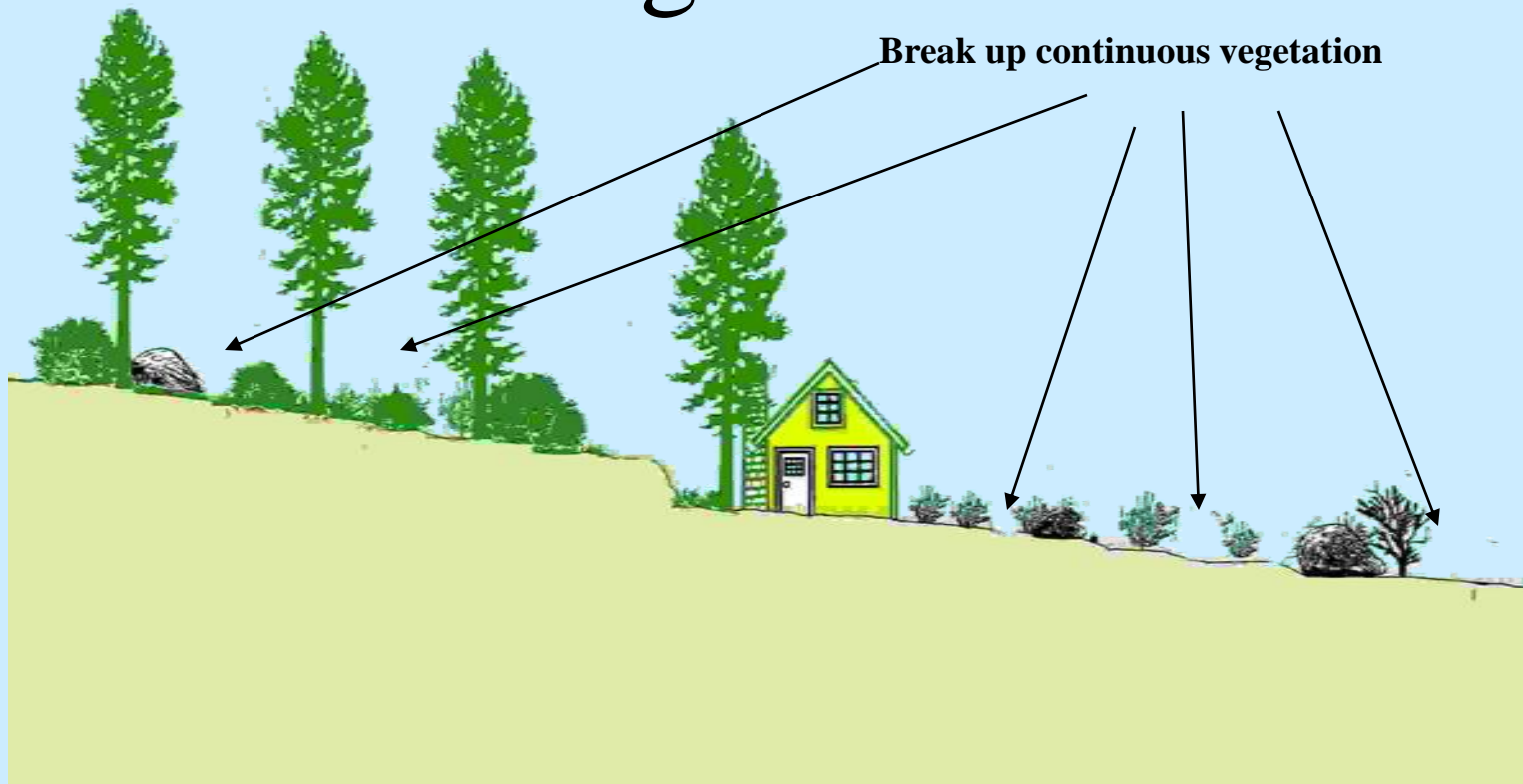
Step 1: Determine Recommended Defensible Space



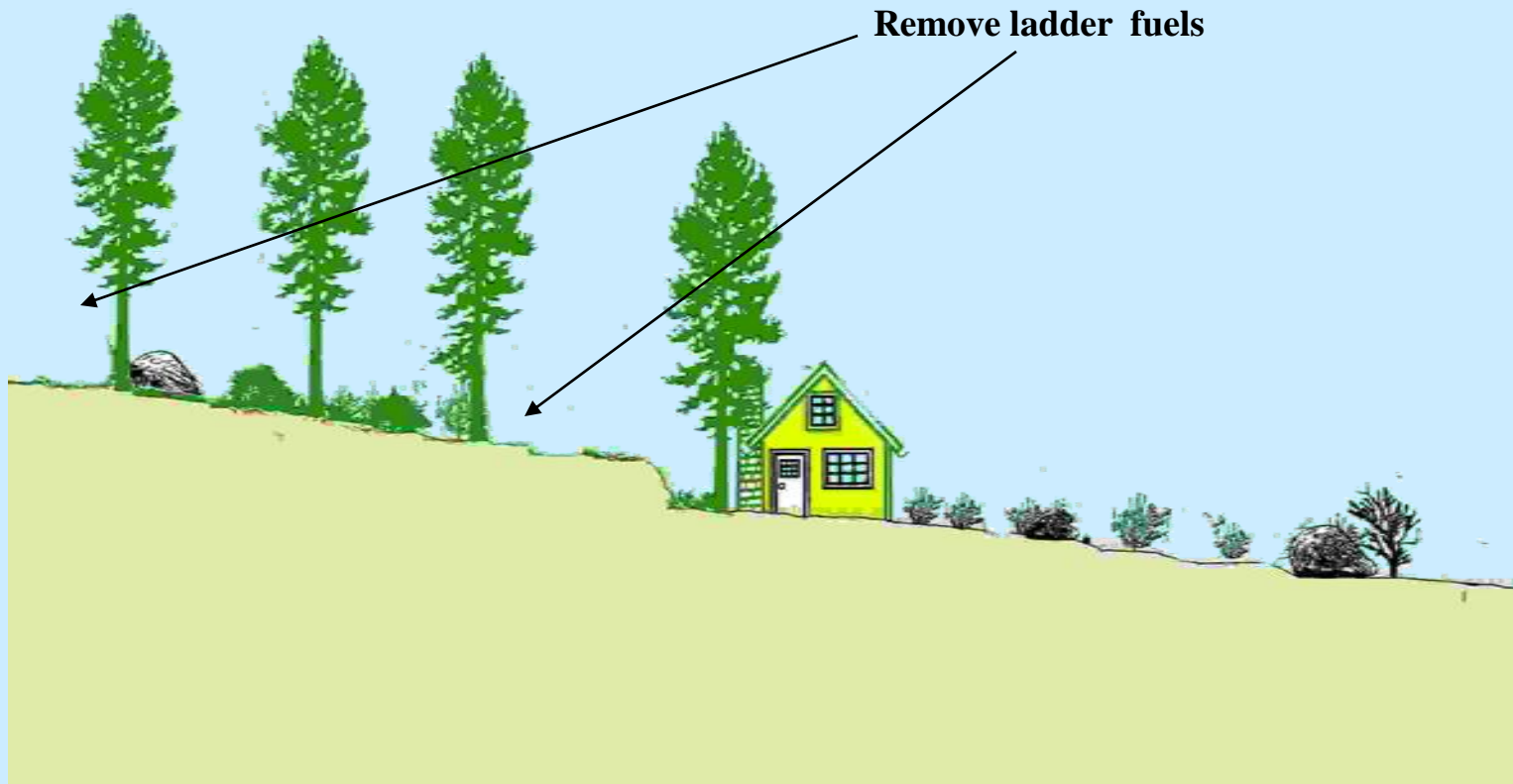
Step 2: Remove Dead Vegetation



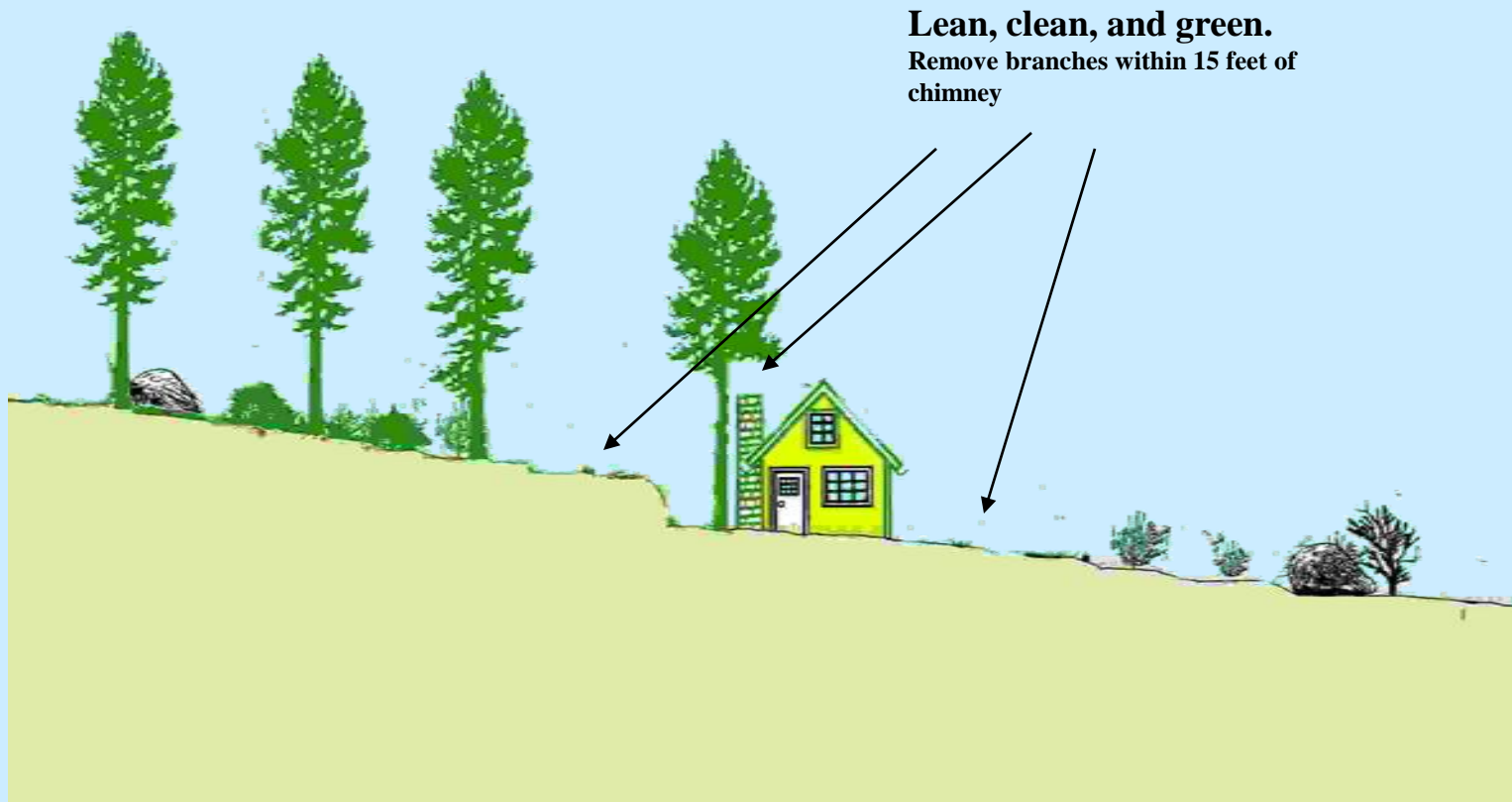
Step 3: Break up Continuous Vegetation



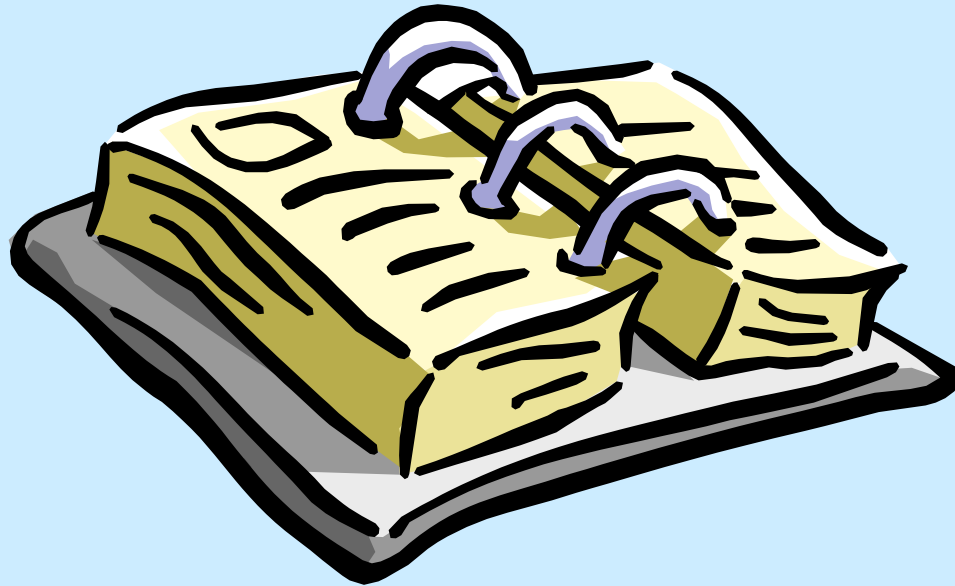
Step 4: Remove Ladder Fuels



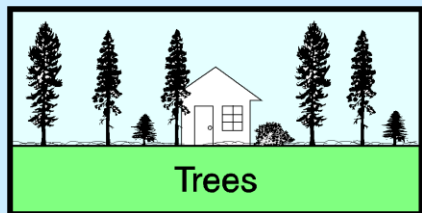
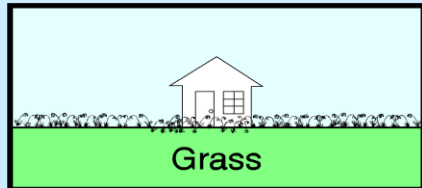
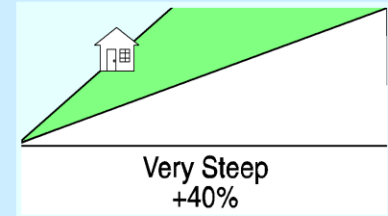
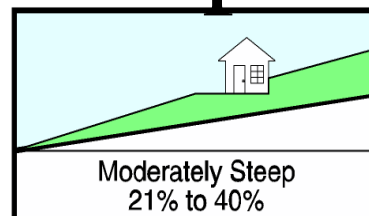
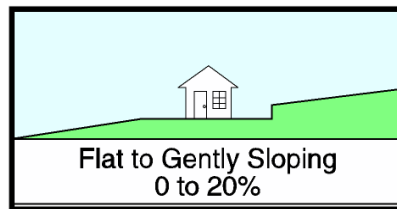
Step 5: Create Lean, Clean and Green Zone



Step 6: Maintain Defensible Space Over Time



Determine Recommended Defensible Space



30 feet	100 feet	100 feet
100 feet	200 feet	200 feet
150 feet	150 feet	200 feet

Separate ground and overhead fuels by removing trees, brush, and dead vegetation.



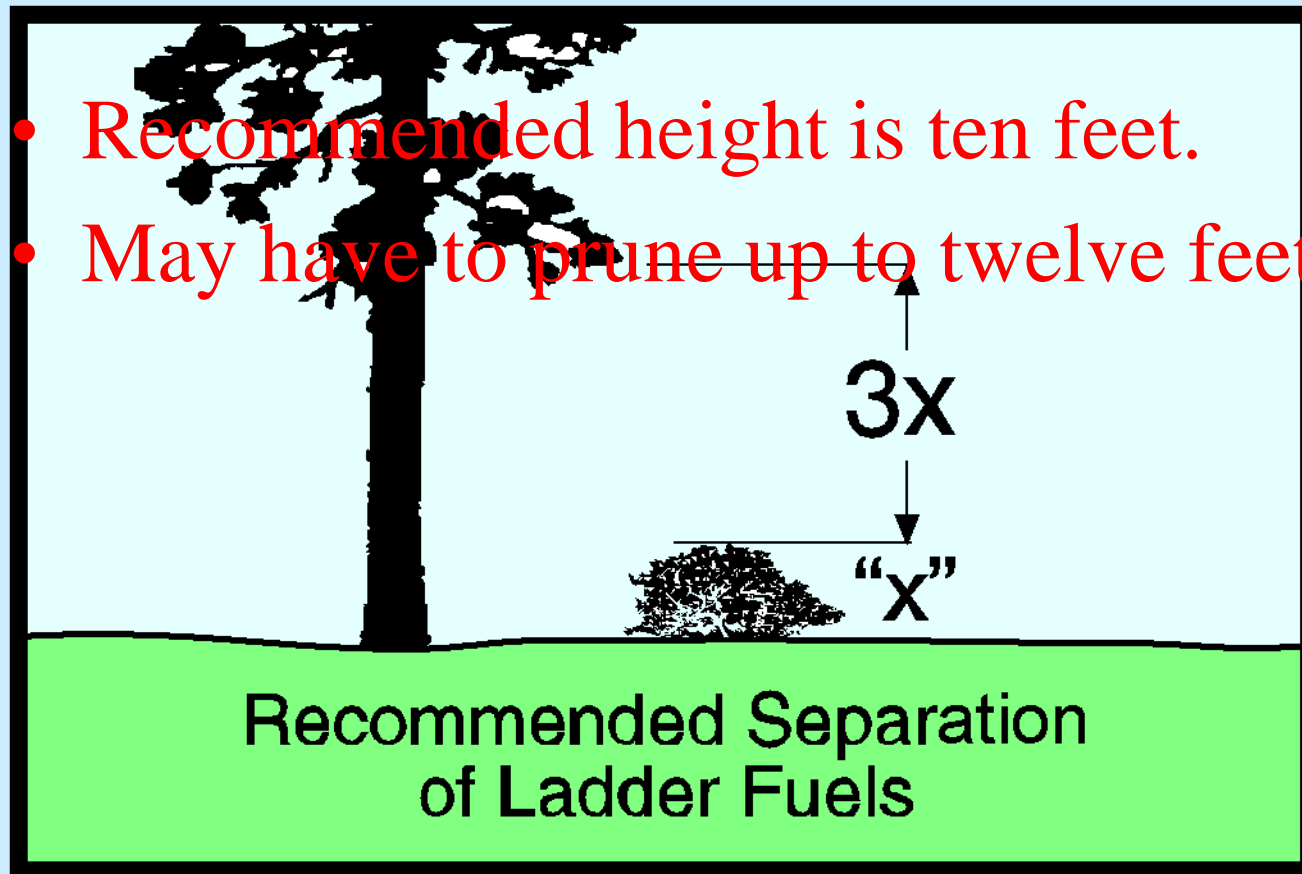
Reduce Crown Fire Potential by Thinning.



Recommended distance between crowns is ten feet.

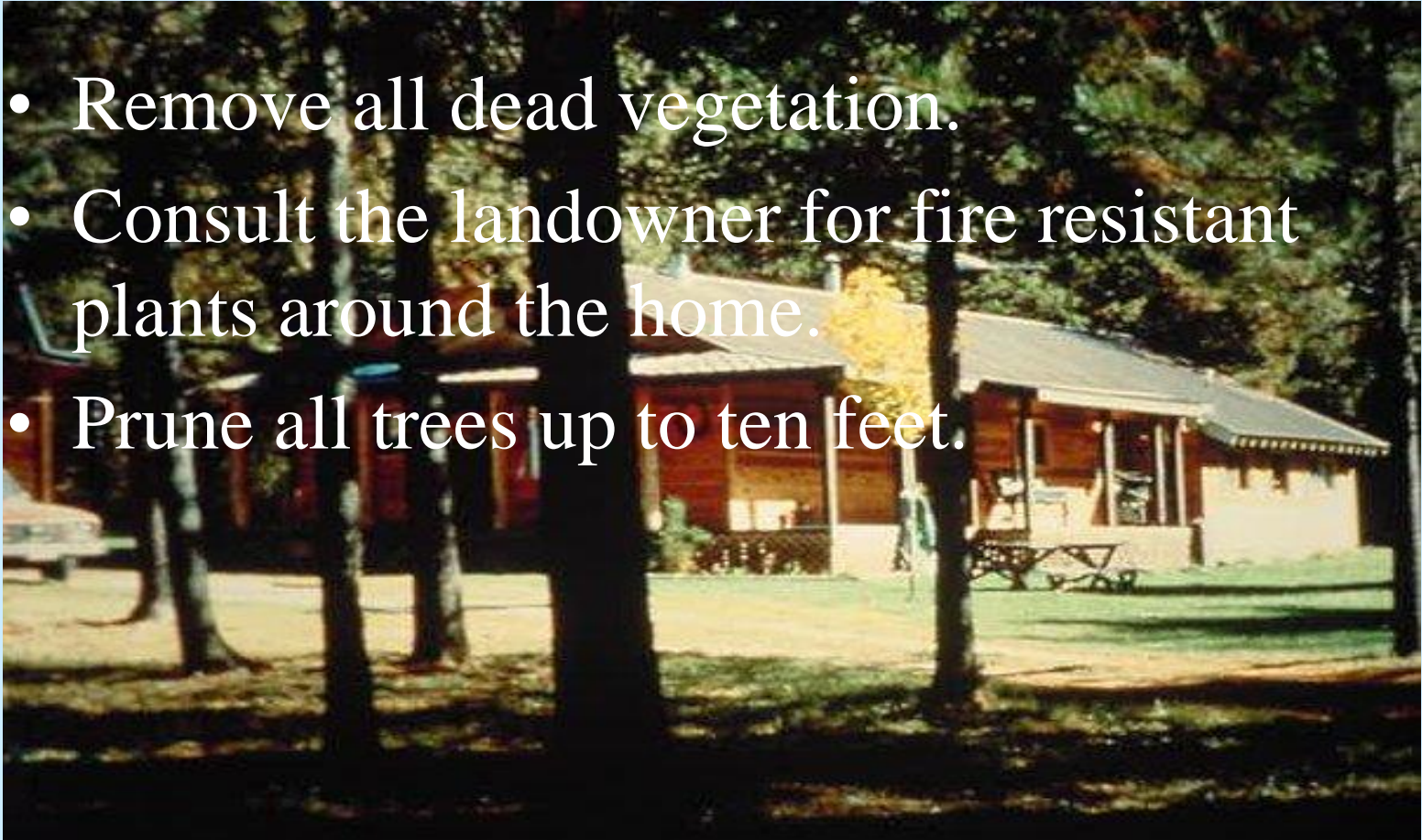
Remove Ladder Fuels

- Recommended height is ten feet.
- May have to prune up to twelve feet.



Make the First Thirty Feet “Lean and Green”

- Remove all dead vegetation.
- Consult the landowner for fire resistant plants around the home.
- Prune all trees up to ten feet.



Debris disposal

- All material in the “lean, clean, and green” zone should be chipped and scattered in the outer zone.
- Large trees near homes and structures should be left standing and limbed as necessary.
- Most outer zone debris disposal may be accomplished by lop and scatter, or chip and scatter.
- If other trees must be felled, drop and leave for homeowner disposal.

Identify Home Hazards



- Use the “Home Protection Guide” to document landowner responsibilities.
 - Note home hazards for the homeowner.
 - Needles on roof or combustible roofing material.
 - Propane tanks.

Replacement

Identify the location and fire resistant species.

Landowner Maintenance

- Landowner is responsible for the immediate house, roof, firewood, and propane.
- Landowner is required to maintain defensible space for ten years.